

Texas Water Development Board

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TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator
Todd Chenoweth, General Counsel
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Jessica Zuba, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply and Infrastructure

DATE: November 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Contract for Engineering Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute an interagency contract with the University of Texas at Arlington in an amount not to exceed \$670,180 to provide engineering services.

BACKGROUND

The Texas Water Development Board, through its office of Water Supply and Infrastructure (WSI), is responsible for ensuring that infrastructure projects funded with TWDB programs are constructed in accordance with programmatic requirements and approved plans and specifications. In addition, WSI engineering staff, via delegation of authority by the Executive Administrator, is authorized to inspect the construction and materials of any project at any time.

The highly competitive job market has made filling engineering vacancies challenging. With the demand of programs like the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas and the new flood mitigation program, as well as increases in marketing efforts for the State Revolving Fund programs, engineering workloads have significantly increased while the number of engineering staff remained low. This has resulted in longer review times and project delays.

To address the issue, management began to explore options to expedite reviews. Among options considered was the potential to contract portions of the engineering review work to the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), a process that is being utilized at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Our Mission

To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas

Board Members

Peter M. Lake, Chairman | Kathleen Jackson, Board Member | Brooke T. Paup, Board Member
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

KEY ISSUES

WSI staff identified nine possible engineering review tasks and after discussion with UTA staff, narrowed the scope to four for potential outsourcing. The four tasks proposed as the scope of work are:

- Technical and engineering assistance for plan reviews
- On-site inspection services of TWDB projects
- Development of program guidance manuals for use by external customers
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan Development-Project Information Form scoring

WSI management is working with UTA staff to finalize the proposed contract. The cost of this proposal would be funded using salary savings from Fiscal Year 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends approval to authorize the execution of a contract for engineering services with the University of Texas at Arlington in an amount not to exceed \$670,180 in order to expedite project reviews.